

Many seniors and disabled Medicare recipients have been waiting a long time for Medicare prescription drug coverage. I am proud that this Congress has answered their call.

□ 1030

This discount card is just the beginning of more health care options and a greater quality of life for our seniors.

#### SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SHOULD HOLD HIMSELF ACCOUNTABLE

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this morning one of the military personnel whose actions were considered part of the horrific acts in the Iraqi prison stands for his court-martial. The words offered were a deep apology as members of his community indicated his service to his community, the kind of human being he was and to them still remains.

The reason why I rise is because his indictment and court-martial today does not in any way take away the ultimate responsibility all the way to the Secretary of Defense. Nothing I have heard from the Secretary of Defense commends me to believe that he should not go, and he frankly should hold himself accountable for the lack of procedures and lack of training and the lack of training given to these enlisted National Guard and others who came there without training, without resources, despite the fact that we all should know right from wrong.

Today, with the Defense authorization bill, nothing in the bill speaks to this issue; and this bill is wracked with problems because it does not address the tragedy in Iraq.

#### WE ARE BETTER OFF NOW THAN FOUR YEARS AGO

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, it really is a very good question posed frequently on the House floor today, Are we better off today than we were 4 years ago? Let us think.

Four years ago, we had a morally disgraced President in the United States of America in the Oval Office. Today we have a man of integrity, of virtue, of principle, of purpose.

Four years ago, the terrorists planned their attacks against America and our allies. Today, America attacks the terrorists while they cower in the mountains of Pakistan.

Four years ago, Saddam Hussein amassed weapons of mass destruction, the Taliban was in power, and Libya had a WMD program. Today, the Taliban is gone. Saddam Hussein is in a cell. We have found pieces of his WMDs, and Libya has ended its program.

Four years ago, the Clinton recession took hold. Today, last month, 300,000 new jobs.

Four years ago, partial birth abortion was legal in America. Today, that moral horror has ended.

We are better off today than we were 4 years ago.

#### PEOPLE IN THE 32ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT ARE NOT BETTER OFF THAN FOUR YEARS AGO

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask, Are we better off now than we were 4 years ago? Unfortunately, for people that I represent in the 32nd Congressional District, including the San Gabriel Valley in East Los Angeles, it is a resounding "no."

Nearly 20,000 people have lost jobs in my district. Unemployment has hovered from 9 to 10 percent for 3 chronic years. Thirty-three percent of the people I represent have no health insurance, and a good number of those people are young children under the age of six.

Yet the House Republican leadership continues to push for wealthy families' tax breaks.

This week, the House will vote on a bill that would provide new tax breaks to rich families earning over \$309,000 a year. Most of the people in my district do not make that much. They actually make anywhere around 20 and \$10,000 a year. People making \$10,000 a year would get nothing in this tax break, \$150 at the most, compared to those at the very wealthy end who will get more money.

We need to do better, and our folks are not better off now. Four years ago they were.

#### LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES ACT TO STAMP OUT PEER-TO-PEER CHILD PORN

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, on Friday several Federal agencies announced a national law enforcement initiative aimed at combating the growing volume of illegal child pornography distributed through peer-to-peer file trading networks.

Since last fall, the effort has resulted in hundreds of searches nationwide, the identification of thousands of computers used to traffic in child pornography, and the arrest of more than 65 individuals.

This action should be commended and further action encouraged, but Friday's announcement is a disturbing confirmation that peer-to-peer programs are being manipulated. They are becoming an ever-more dangerous platform used by child predators, some

convicted child molesters, to attack kids.

Parents need the ability to protect their kids before they are harmed by cyberpredators using peer-to-peer software. H.R. 2885 would give parents the tools and help parents prevent this from happening in the first place. I urge support.

#### DISCOUNT DRUG CARD IS A FARCE

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I listened to my colleagues on the Republican side talk about the discount drug card, so-called, that goes into effect June 1. It is such a farce.

First of all, there is no drug benefit. We all know that. They have postponed that to sometime 2 years from now, in 2006, when you will actually have to put out more money than the benefit you would get, so nobody would sign up for it anyway. But what a farce these cards are.

In my district in New Jersey, you can already get most of these cards. You do not even need to go through the Federal Government.

In addition to that, if you look on this Web site and it shows you that there is a lower price, well, if you look and compare with other Internet sites, the prices are usually lower in other Internet sites. You do not even need the drug card.

In addition to that, the price can change. Whatever price is on that Web site, a week later they can change the price and simply raise it.

In addition, my constituents have been complaining about how they go to a particular pharmacy, they will not even take the card.

I have never seen so much chaos. Seniors are disgusted by this proposal. It is just a bureaucratic nightmare. It gives them no discount whatsoever and no benefit.

#### REGULATORY BURDEN ON SMALL BUSINESSES

(Mr. HENSARLING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, as a former small businessman, I rise today in support of Republican efforts this week to reduce the regulatory burden on small businesses, the job engine of this country.

I know firsthand that the Federal regulatory burden strangles small business in America and keeps American-owned businesses from creating more jobs. In the year 2000, the estimated total regulatory burden in America was a job-crushing \$843 billion. Along with high rates of taxation, which Democrats want to raise even further, nothing stifles job creation in America like the heavy hand of bureaucratic regulation.